Where Rain Goes

Trace a process and explain its limits.

6.RI.10.a "Demonstrate proficiency in reading and comprehending grade-appropriate texts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number three phrases in paragraph 1 to show water's path from pavement to soil. Circle one detail in paragraph 2 and one in paragraph 3 that show why a rain garden needs careful design or care.

A Garden Built for Rain

1 After a hard rain, water can race across a school parking lot and carry bits of dirt into a storm drain. A rain garden offers another route. It is a shallow, planted dip in the ground that catches some water from roofs, paths, or pavement. The water rests there for a short time instead of rushing away at once. Slowly, it sinks into the soil. A rain garden is not a pond: if it is built and cared for properly, it should drain between storms.

2 A rain garden works because of what lies below its flowers. Loose soil leaves spaces for water to move through, and plant roots help keep some of those spaces open. As water passes through, soil can trap some dirt and other pollutants. Plants take up some of the water, too. These changes can mean less runoff reaching storm drains during a storm. But a rain garden cannot catch every drop. In a heavy storm, extra water needs a safe path to a drain or another suitable area.

3 Placement and upkeep matter as much as the plants. A rain garden should not direct water toward a building's foundation. Before digging, adults must check for buried pipes and cables. They also need to choose plants that can handle both wet spells and dry days. Later, workers remove litter and clear blocked inlets so water can enter the garden. At one school, students could observe the garden after different storms and note how long water remains. Those observations would help them judge whether the garden is draining as planned.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does a rain garden change the path water takes after it leaves pavement? Use two details from the passage.

2. Why does the passage say a rain garden is not a pond?

3. How do the soil and plants work together to reduce runoff? Use details from paragraph 2.

4. Why does the author describe both a heavy storm and a building's foundation? What shared point do these examples make?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your school plans to build a rain garden beside a paved play area. In 4 or 5 sentences, explain what adults should check before digging, how the garden could help, one limit it has, and how students could tell later whether it is draining as planned. Use at least three details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Where Rain Goes

GRADE 6 · 6.RI.10.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number three phrases in paragraph 1 to show water's path from pavement to soil. Circle one detail in paragraph 2 and one in paragraph 3 that show why a rain garden needs careful design or care. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does a rain garden change the path water takes after it leaves pavement? Use two details from the passage.	**It catches some water that would otherwise rush toward a storm drain. The water rests in the garden briefly, then sinks into the soil.**
2	Why does the passage say a rain garden is not a pond?	**A properly built and cared-for rain garden holds water only briefly and drains between storms.**
3	How do the soil and plants work together to reduce runoff? Use details from paragraph 2.	**Loose soil lets water move through it, and roots help keep spaces in the soil open. Plants take up some water, so less runoff may reach storm drains.**
4	Why does the author describe both a heavy storm and a building's foundation? What shared point do these examples make?	**Both show that a rain garden needs careful planning so extra water has a safe path and does not flow toward a building.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before digging beside the play area, adults should check for buried cables and make sure water will not flow toward the school building. The shallow garden could collect runoff from the pavement and let it sink through loose soil. Plants could take up some water, while the soil traps some dirt. During a heavy storm, the garden might not catch all the runoff, so extra water needs a safe route. After storms, students could record how long water remains to check whether the garden drains.

For marking, accept phrases showing water moving from pavement into the garden and then into soil. Circled details may identify a need for safe overflow, careful placement, or upkeep. In Part 3, accept other text-supported plans that address all four requested points.